

AMENDMENT

Official

S I R:

Applicant herewith petitions the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for reply to the Office Action dated February 15, 2000 for one (1) month from May 15, 2000 to June 15, 2000. Please charge deposit account number 50-0310 in the amount of \$110.00 to cover the cost of the extension. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to the above numbered deposit account.

In response to the Office Action mailed on February 15, 2000, the period for response having been extended herein to June 15, 2000, by payment of the requisite fee for a Petition for Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), kindly amend the Application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 71 and 74 as follows:

71. (Amended) A method of limiting bids in an electronic auction [conducting an online auction for custom industrial products or materials between a buyer and a plurality of potential sellers], comprising [the steps of]:
- (a) setting an individual bid ceiling for each of a plurality of potential sellers, wherein an individual bid ceiling for at least one of said plurality of potential sellers is different from an individual bid ceiling for another of said plurality of potential sellers;
  - (b) receiving bids from one or more potential sellers;
  - (c) determining whether a received bid for a potential seller is greater than a